Lovereading4kids.co.uk

Helping you choose books for children

0-5 5-7 7-9 9-12 12+

opening extract from

Jane Eyre: The Graphic Novel (Quick Text)

written by

Charlotte Bronte

published by

Classical Comics

All text is copyright of the author and illustrator

please print off and read at your leisure.

The Birth of Jane Eyre

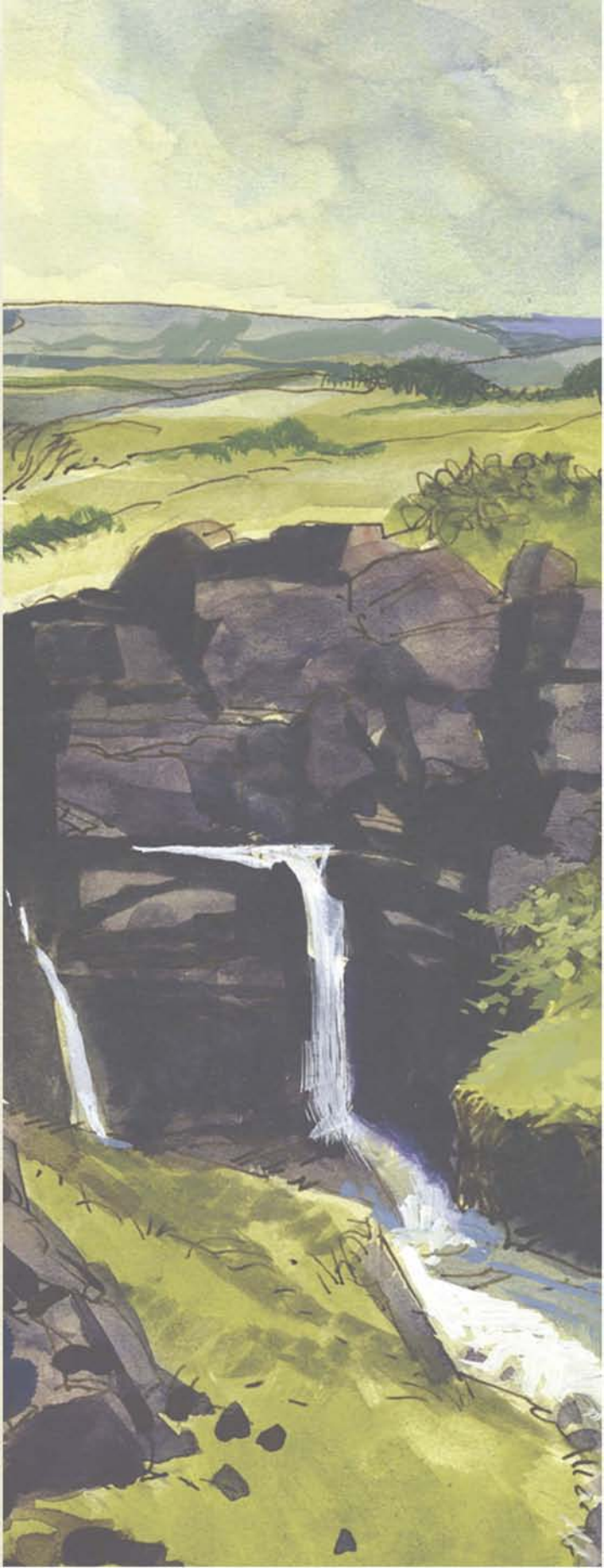
Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* was a huge success when it first appeared in 1847. It was a year of great achievement for the Brontë sisters of Haworth: the publication of Anne Brontë's *Agnes Grey*, and Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* also taking place that same year.

That success, however, was set against a family history full of loss and sadness.

Despite the many advances made in medical science during the nineteenth century, potentially fatal diseases were still extremely common. Charlotte had to cope with her mother's death when she was only five years old; and then, four years later, two of her sisters were lost to tuberculosis.

Young Charlotte was fortunate enough to have a caring father and aunt to look after her – but what about an infant who had lost both parents?

It was usual for orphaned children to be looked after by relatives; and while the kindness of that act cannot be denied, the emotional impact of the loss of parents on the child, coupled with the stresses felt by the family looking after an extra person in the household, could provide the background to an unhappy childhood – especially for a poor, plain little girl, thrust into the home of her spiteful cousins and an uncaring aunt.




~ PROLOGUE ~
NORTHERN ENGLAND IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY.
WITH MY SISTER AND HER HUSBAND DEAD, WE MUST LOOK AFTER THEIR CHILD.
REVEREND EYRE
WIFE TO REVEREND EYRE


GATESHEAD HALL


ONE YEAR LATER...
DEAR WIFE, PLEASE PROMISE YOU WILL RAISE JANE EYRE AS ONE OF OUR OWN CHILDREN.


I WILL, HUSBAND.


~ CHAPTER I ~
NINE YEARS LATER...
IT'S TOO COLD TO TAKE A WALK TODAY.


KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, JANE. UNTIL I'VE HEARD FROM NURSEMAID BESSIE --


I LIKE BESSIE'S STORIES...


-- THAT YOU ARE BEING WELL-BEHAVED --

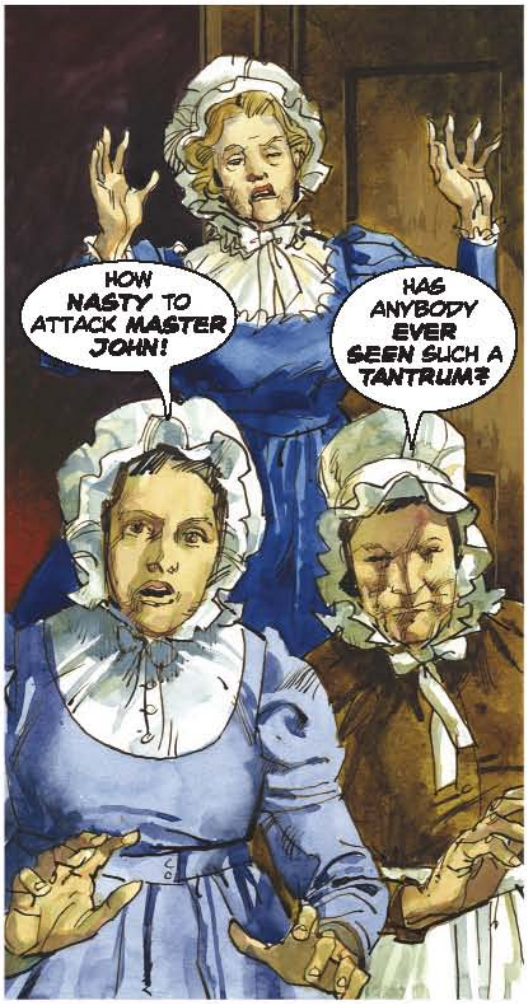

-- I MUST EXCLUDE YOU FROM THINGS THAT ARE ONLY FOR HAPPY LITTLE CHILDREN.


WHAT HAVE I DONE?
HOW DARE YOU QUESTION ME!


GO AND SIT QUIETLY SOMEWHERE.


WHERE'S JANE?
I'M GLAD I CLOSED THE CURTAIN.
LIZZY!
GEORGY!
JANE IS NOT HERE.
SHE'S IN THE WINDOW-SEAT
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SAY,
"WHAT DO YOU WANT, MASTER REED?"
I WANT YOU TO COME HERE.
THAT'S FOR BEING RUDE TO MAMA!
SMACK!!!
...AND FOR HIDING BEHIND THE CURTAIN AND FOR THAT LOOK YOU HAD IN YOUR EYE!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEHIND THERE YOU RAT?
READING.


SHOW ME THE BOOK.
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OUR BOOKS! YOU ARE NO MORE THAN A BEGGAR!
I'LL TEACH YOU FOR TOUCHING THINGS THAT WILL SOON BELONG TO ME!
AAH!
THUMP!
YOU'RE AN EVIL BOY!
WHAT! I'M TELLING MAMA!
BUT FIRST...
RAT!
RAT!
MAMA!
MAMA!


HOW NASTY TO ATTACK MASTER JOHN!
HAS ANYBODY EVER SEEN SUCH A TANTRUM?


LOCK HER IN THE RED ROOM.


~ CHAPTER II ~


HOW DARE YOU HIT YOUR YOUNG MASTER!
HOW'S HE MY MASTER? AM I A SERVANT?


NO, YOU'RE LOWER THAN A SERVANT!


YOU SHOULDN'T THINK YOURSELF EQUAL TO MISSIS AND MASTER REED --
-- THEY'LL BE RICH, AND YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING. IT'S YOUR PLACE TO BE NICE TO THEM.
WE'RE TELLING YOU THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
OTHERWISE, YOU COULD END UP IN THE POORHOUSE.
LET'S LEAVE HER, BESSIE --
-- SAY YOUR PRAYERS, MISS EYRE, OR BAD THINGS MIGHT COME FOR YOU.
THIS IS SO UNFAIR!
HUH?!?
SHREEIK!!
LET ME OUT!
BANG! BANG! BANG!